monwealth (if Independent Slates during this year from India mainly through the loans being paid by Government of India;

(b) whether Government have any details of the exporter of tobacco who have secured such orders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any effort has been made to encourage tobacco exporters during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Tobacco Board in the current financial year. Russia has so far contracted for import 19000 tonnes of FCV tobacco by utilising the adhoc advance extended by the Government of India, Russia has awarded these contracts to about 27 exporters for quantities tanging from 100 MTs to 3000 MTs.

(d) The steps taken to promote exports of tobacco include:—

—General policy measures like unification of exchange rate and reduction in interest on export credit etc. to encourage exports;

—Visit of trade delegation led by Chairman. Tobacco Board t0 Russia in .April. 93 for promoting export of tobacco:

—Encouraging exporters to establish their overseas offices in Russia and other CIS republics for promotion of exports;

—Granting permission to exporters for shipment of tobacco for stocks and sale operation as a special case by the R. B. I;

—Participation in international exhibitions jointly with exporters to publicise their products.

Proposal for revamping MMTC and STC

2147. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM DR JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for revamping the State Trading Corporation and Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITION Al. CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Consequent on the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised througth STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient and re-structure these Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. The Corporations themselves are also in the process of formulating and implementing plans and strategins to adapt to the current environment.

Demand and Production of Castor Oil

2148 SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL : SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM : DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: SHRI B K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an upsurge in world demand for castor oil, more than 50 per cent of which is being met by India; if so. the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would gear upto litis boom by increasing its share by regulating domestic consumption as a major part of which is used in adulteration of edible oil;

(c) whether Government would take advantage of the expertise gained by India Oil and Produce Exporters Association and involve them deeply in the promotion of castor oil exports; and

(d) the total production of castor oil during the last three years alongwith its domestic demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes Sir. As per information with the Basic Chemical, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL) Bombay, out of a total world Castor oil demand, India's share is more than 60% at present.

(b) Domestic consumption of Castor oil is mainly for industrial usage. Concerned wings of the Central and State Governments take action whenever instances of adulteration come to their notice.

(c) The Indian Oil & Produce Exporters Association is mainly handling ' HPS Groundnuts and as such the question of taking their expertise in Castor oil Sector does not arise. CHEMEXIL is the concerned export promotion Council entrusted with the export promotion of Castor oil.

(d) The total production of Castor oil for the last three years is given below:—

	(In Lakh MT)
1990-91	2.51
1991-92	2.02
1992-93	2.27

According to available information, domestic demand of Castor oil is around 1.2 lakh MT per year.

Sources:

1. Department of Agriculture & Coopn.
2. Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL)

Domestic Consumption of Tea

2149. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Tea generally go up between January and June every year due to priority being given go overseas market;

(b) what is the domestic consumption of the tea and its exports during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that producers with the help of brokers manipulate prices when overseas demand of tea is high and the domestic price of tea rise abnormally; and

(d) what is the earning from the exports of tea to the former USSR and now Russia during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The average prices of tea fetched at auctions in India during January to June this year is more or less bearer to overall average prices of tea for the full year in question.

(b) Details of domestic consumption of tea in India and exports of tea during 1990 to 1992 are given below:—

Year	Domestic Consumption of tea in India (In M. Kgs.)	Exports (M. Kgs.)
1990	500	210.02
1991	520	202.92
1992	540	170.82 (Estimated)

(c) Prices of tea at Indian auctions are determined by supply demand equations. Teas are sold in the open auctions by brokers on behalf of the producers to the highest bidders who are the registered buyers operating in the auctions.

(d) Earnings from the export of tea from India to erstwhile USSR for the last three years 1990 to 1992 are given below:—

Year	Value in Rs. crores
1990	670.72 (USSR)
1991	565.31 (USSR)
*1992 (Eastimated)	229.14

*Figure indicates supply to Russia only.

Payment of Income Tax by Tobacco Board

2150. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board was asked to pay Rs. 5 Crores as income tax/ corporate tax;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the taxable earning of the Board;